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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1-4. (Canceled)
5. (New) A method of therapy for treating diseases associated with degenerative intervertebral disc characterized by directly administering an active ingredient comprising one or more human-derived proteases to the affected site of a disease associated with degenerative intervertebral disc.
6. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the disease associated with degenerative intervertebral disc is herniated disc, lumbago, discopathy or spondylosis.
7. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the human-derived protease is an extracellular matrix protease.
8. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient comprises one or more extracellular matrix proteases selected from the group consisting of MMP-3, MMP-7, MMP-8, MMP-13, MT1-MMP and aggrecanase.